

BS030115

U.S. Application No. 10/643,178 Examiner Lev Art Unit 3634
Response to First Office Action

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2004, Assignee respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Assignee respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (the "Office") objected to claims 4-7 for word choices. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 1 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,693,598 to Young. Claims 1, 9, 11-13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Published U.S. Patent Application 2004/0140158 to Wilcox *et al.* Claims 2-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Young*. Claims 2-8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Wilcox*. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Young* in view of U.S. Patent 6,006,860 to Bell. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Young* in view of U.S. Patent 3,295,517 to Stevens. Claim 10, however, was indicated to be allowable if rewritten. The Assignee accepts the allowed claim and thus respectively submits that the pending claims are ready for allowance.

Allowable Claim 10

Examiner Lev indicates Claim 10 is allowable if rewritten. Claim 10 is thus amended to incorporate all the features of now-canceled claim 1. Moreover, claims 2-15 now ultimately depend from allowable claim 10. The Assignee thus respectively submits that all the pending claims are ready for allowance.

Objection to Claims 4-7

The Office objected to claims 4-7 for word choices. The Assignee adopts the Examiner's suggested wording and amends claims 4-7.

BS030115

U.S. Application No. 10/643,178 Examiner Lev Art Unit 3634
Response to First Office Action

Rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claim 16 however, has been amended to cure the indefinite phrasing.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

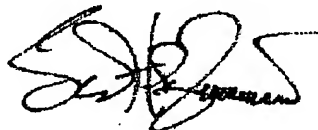
Claims 1 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,693,598 to Young. Claims 1, 9, 11-13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Published U.S. Patent Application 2004/0140158 to Wilcox *et al.* Claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 9 and 11-13 now ultimately depend from allowable claim 10. Claim 16 has also been amended to include the patentable features of claim 10.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 2-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Young*. Claims 2-8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Wilcox*. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Young* in view of U.S. Patent 6,006,860 to Bell. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Young* in view of U.S. Patent 3,295,517 to Stevens. All the claims, however, have been amended to now ultimately depend from allowable claim 10.

If any issues remain outstanding, the Office is requested to contact the undersigned at (919) 387-6907 or scott@scottzimmerman.com.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott P. Zimmerman
Attorney for the Assignee, Reg. No. 41,390